

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098964 TOSEC 110024

NODIS
CORRECTED COPY - ADDRESS ONLY

FOL RPT STATE 098964 ACTION USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT 23 APR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098964 TOSEC 110024

NODIS

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT BEIRUT 3656, SENT SECSTATE APRIL 23:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3656

NODIS

PASS TO SECRETARY IN LONDON

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE
SUBJ: MEETING WITH FRANGIE - SAYS HE WILL SIGN.

1. AMBASSADOR BROWN SPOKE WITH FRANGIE FOR AN HOUR AND
A HALF APRIL 23RD IN JOUNIEH BEFORE RETURNING TO BEIRUT
AIRPORT BY HELICOPTER AND TAKING PLANE TO LONDON. DURING
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LAST HALF HOUR PARTY WAS JOINED BY CHAMOUN. GEMAYEL
UNFORTUNATELY COULD NOT MAKE IT.

2. AMBASSADOR REVIEWED WITH FRANGIE ALL THE ELEMENTS

CONTAINED IN HIS INSTRUCTIONS SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WITHOUT DELAY. HE PLACED PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON OUR INTEREST IN THE WELL BEING OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. AT FIRST FRANGIE WAS ADAMANT, CLAIMING THAT THE SECURITY CONDITIONS ON WHICH THE AMENDMENT WAS IN PART BASED DID NOT PREVAIL. AMBASSADOR THEN TACKLED THIS "VICIOUS CIRCLE" ARGUMENT AND FINALLY GOT FRANGIE TO AGREE TO SIGN THE AMENDMENT. HOWEVER, AS APRIL 23RD WAS A HOLIDAY, FRANGIE SAID HE WOULD DELAY HIS SIGNATURE UNTIL THE FOLLOWING DAY. (NOT CLEAR WHETHER FRANGIE WAS REFERRING TO GREEK ORTHODOX GOOD FRIDAY OR TO THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WORK AFTER 1100 HOURS ON FRIDAY IN DEFERENCE TO THE MOSLEMS.)

3. FRANGIE HAS SAID BEFORE HE WOULD SIGN BUT HAS BACKED DOWN. HE IS MEETING WITH MARONITES THIS AFTERNOON. THEY MAY PERSUADE HIM NOT TO SIGN, BUT OUR READING IS THAT THE MAJORITY ARE IN FAVOR OF SIGNATURE.

4. IF THE AMBASSADOR WON ON THE SIGNATURE, IT WAS NOT A COMPLETE VICTORY. FRANGIE WENT ON TO SAY THAT, EVEN IF A NEW PRESIDENT WAS ELECTED, HE WOULD NOT RESIGN IF ADEQUATE SECURITY CONDITIONS DID NOT EXIST. BUT THIS IS A BRIDGE WE CAN CROSS WHEN WE GET TO IT.

5. CHAMOUN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONVERSATION WAS TO START OFF ON THE NECESSITY OF ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE STATE. AFTER A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TALKING TO, THE AMBASSADOR FINALLY GOT CHAMOUN MOVED TO WHAT APPEARS TO BE HIS STANDARD FALL-BACK POSITION, NAMELY THAT HE WOULD HOLD OFF A FEW YEARS TO GIVE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT A CHANCE. WARING UNQUOTE. SISCO

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